

924 Grand Ave
Rockford Ill
April 4th /89

My dear Mr Watson

I can not tell
you how glad I am to have
your approval of my "conclu-
sions respecting the Salix
arcticus". The most that I hope
you is endorsement by American
Botanists! John Bull will
continue to write "Salix arctica R Br
var. Pauciflora" for the next fifty years
as he has for fifty years
before. Without the approval of
such friends as yourself and
Prof Cutter I should have hesitated
to publish - with this approval
I feel all confidence, for really
I can see no other honest
way out of the difficulty!
Cutter hits the nail on the head
when he writes me - "I see the
personal element that makes
you hesitate. It looks, on the
face of it, like doing what

Anderson did, viz, knocking one
species and capturing another
for yourself. I don't think you
would hesitate at all if you
were simply restoring the two
species to their respective authors."

I should feel too much flattered
if I took you at your word
and estimated the acceptability
of a photograph sent by the
Gleaner and satisfaction with
which yours is received. We
have both grown older in the
seventeen years thus have intervened
since I saw you last. But while
I, from a stout physique have
dropped down to a weight of only
137 lbs you have evidently grown
broad shouldered, and strong, vital,
The flowing white beard took me
by surprise. But the expression is
more genial - as if age had
brought serenity.

Yours very truly
W. S. Webb